

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OFFICAL RESULTS  
FY2017  
Town of Rowe  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Moderator: Robert Clancy  
Town Clerk: Jennifer Morse  
Board of Selectmen: Marilyn Wilson – Chair, Susan Gleason – Vice Chair, Walter Quist  
Town Counsel: Donna MacNicol  
Constable: Robert Dykeman  
Tellers: Chris Hyytinen, Marjorie Morse

The Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Town Meeting was held on Monday May 9, 2016 at the Rowe Elementary School; 86 Pond Road. There were approximately forty-nine (49) registered voters in attendance and Seven (7) audience members. The meeting was called to order by Moderator Clancy at 7 p.m. A moment of silence in memory of Rowe Residents: Richard Alix, Francis Benson, June Brown, Marion Dandeneau, Dorothy Kalas, John Rossi, Betty Scrivens, Jean Stamford, and Joseph Vadeboncoeur was observed. The moderator swore Chris Hyytinen and Marjorie Morse in as tellers for the meeting. The moderator then led the audience in the pledge of allegiance and reviewed the meeting rules before the reading of the warrant. The moderator turned to the Board of Selectmen for comment before the reading of the first article. Marilyn Wilson spoke regarding the handouts available including the following documents; the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, Supplemental Financial Document, Amendments to the Annual Town Meeting, School Committee Statement. Board of Assessors Chair Frederick Williams shared the estimated tax rate if all articles passed. The residential rate would go from \$6.03 to \$6.20 and the Personal Property/Commercial rate would go from \$13.31 to \$13.69.

The following elected position will be on the ballot for the Annual Town Election to be held on Saturday May 14, 2016. The polls will be open from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Rowe Town Hall

- 1 Selectman for three (3) years
- 1 Assessor for three (3) years
- 1 Board of Health Member for three (3) years
- 1 Cemetery Commissioner for three (3) years
- 1 Finance Committee Members for three (3) years
- 1 Finance Committee Member for two (2) years
- 1 Library Trustee for three (3) years
- 1 Moderator (3) years
- 1 Park Commissioner for three (3) years
- 1 Planning Board Member for five (5) years
- 1 School Committee Member for three (3) years
- 1 School Committee Member for two (2) years
- 1 Tax Collector (3) years

**ARTICLE 1:** The article was read, moved and seconded to act on reports of the Town Officers and Committees.  
*Article 1 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands*

**ARTICLE 2:** A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Select Board to choose all necessary officers not elected by ballot for the ensuing year.  
*Article 2 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands*

**ARTICLE 3:** A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint an Executive Secretary pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41 Section 23A.  
*Article 3 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands*

**ARTICLE 4:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE** and **APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the conduct of **General Government**, including the charges and expenses of the various town offices, and compensation for elected and appointed officials for the 2017 fiscal year.  
**Administration**

|                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| General Administration      | \$ 131,870.00 |
| Executive Secretary         | 45,045.00     |
| Administrative Assistant    | 6,811.00      |
| Town Hall Custodian Wages   | 13,002.00     |
| Moderator Stipend           | 439.00        |
| Select Board Stipends       | 5,928.00      |
| Legal                       | 10,000.00     |
| Tax Collector Stipend       | 7,629.00      |
| Tax Collector Operations    | 7,290.00      |
| Treasurer Stipend and Wages | 20,316.00     |
| Town Clerk Stipend          | 12,973.00     |

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Town Clerk Expenses                           | 7,350.00             |
| Conservation Commission                       | 1,500.00             |
| Council on Aging                              | 4,600.00             |
| Energy Committee                              | 500.00               |
| Veteran’s Services                            | 2,233.00             |
| FRCOG Services                                | 23,384.00            |
| Town Accountant                               | 15,732.00            |
| <u>Town Accounting Expenses</u>               | <u>2,530.00</u>      |
| Subtotal General Government                   | \$ 319,132.00        |
| <b>Assessors Office</b>                       |                      |
| Assessors’ Stipends and Wages                 | 15,156.00            |
| <u>Assessors’ Operations</u>                  | <u>8,200.00</u>      |
| Subtotal Assessors                            | \$ 23,356.00         |
| <b>Planning Board</b>                         |                      |
| Planning Board                                | 6,406.00             |
| <u>Planning Board Goal Post</u>               | <u>12,403.00</u>     |
| Subtotal Planning Board                       | \$ 18,809.00         |
| <b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT FROM TAXATION</b> | <b>\$ 361,297.00</b> |

*Article 4 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands*

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to **Appropriate the sum of \$15,015.48\*** from the **Assessors’ Triennial Revaluation Stabilization Fund** to the **Assessors’ FY18 Triennial Revaluation Fund** or the exact amount.

*Two – thirds vote required to pass the article*

*Article 5 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands  
Declared Two-Thirds By Moderator*

**ARTICLE 6:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the sum of **\$11,000.00** for the **Assessors’ FY18 Triennial Revaluation Fund**.

*Two – thirds vote required to pass the article*

*Article 6 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands  
Declared Two-Thirds By Moderator*

**ARTICLE 7:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the sum of **\$20,000.00** to be used as a **Reserve Fund** pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 6 for the extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures for the 2017 fiscal year.

*Article 7 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands*

**ARTICLE 8:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the operation and maintenance of **Public Works and Facilities** for the 2017 fiscal year.

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| <b>Highway Department</b>                                |                      |
| DPW Salary and Wages                                     | \$ 287,867.00        |
| <u>DPW Operations</u>                                    | <u>274,910.00</u>    |
| Subtotal Highway Department                              | \$ 562,777.00        |
| <b>Other Public Works &amp; Facilities</b>               |                      |
| Street Lighting  | \$ 5,500.00          |
| <u>Municipal Light Plant</u>                             | <u>1,000.00</u>      |
| Subtotal Other Public Works & Facilities                 | 6,500.00             |
| <b>Cemetery</b>  | <b>\$ 15,000.00</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS &amp; FACILITIES FROM TAXATION</b> | <b>\$ 584,277.00</b> |
| <i>Article 8 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands</i>   |                      |

**ARTICLE 9:** A motion was made and seconded to **Appropriate** from available funds the sum of **\$146,389.00** for the maintenance, repair, improvement and construction of town highways, or any other purpose allowed under Chapter 90, which amounts shall be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through funds made available by Chapter 90.

*Article 9 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands*

**ARTICLE 10:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Public Safety** for the 2017 fiscal year.

|                                      |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Police Department</b>             |              |
| Police Salaries                      | \$ 50,358.00 |
| Police Operations                    | 8,850.00     |
| Subtotal Police Department           | \$ 59,208.00 |
| <b>Fire Department</b>               |              |
| Fire Department Stipends             | \$ 25,232.00 |
| Fire Department General Operations   | 31,017.00    |
| Subtotal Fire Department             | \$ 56,249.00 |
| <b>Emergency Management</b>          |              |
| Emergency Management Director        | \$ 3,864.00  |
| Emergency Management Operations      | 3,000.00     |
| Subtotal Emergency Management        | \$6,864.00   |
| <b>Emergency Medical Services</b>    |              |
| EMS Stipends                         | \$ 8,508.00  |
| EMS Operations                       | 2,500.00     |
| Subtotal Emergency Medical Service   | \$ 11,008.00 |
| <b>Animal Control and Inspection</b> |              |
| Animal Control Stipends              | \$ 2,189.00  |
| Regional Dog Kennel                  | 350.00       |
| Subtotal Animal Control              | \$ 2,539.00  |

**TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY FROM TAXATION** **\$ 135,868.00**

*Article 10 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands*

**ARTICLE 11:** The article was read, moved and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Public Health and Sanitation** for the 2017 fiscal year.

|                                      |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Health Department Stipends and Wages | \$ 73,444.00 |
| Board of Health Operations           | \$ 56,280.00 |

**TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION FROM TAXATION** **\$ 129,724.00**

*Article 11 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands*

**ARTICLE 12:** A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Board of Health, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2, to use a revolving fund with a limit of \$1,000.00 for fiscal year 2017 to accept receipts related to the Town’s **Emergency Dispensing Site**, in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2018.

*Article 12 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands*

**ARTICLE 13:** A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Board of Health, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to use a revolving fund with a limit of **\$5,000.00** for fiscal year 2017 to accept receipts related to the Town’s **recycling program and expenditures** for the operation of the Town’s solid waste and recycling programs, membership in and services in the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, and the purchase of recycled content or environmentally preferable products, to be under the authority of the Board of Health, in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2018, or take any action in relation thereto.

*Article 13 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands*

**ARTICLE 14:** A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Board of Health, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to use a revolving fund with a limit of **\$6,000.00** for the 2017 fiscal year to accept receipts from the Insurance Billing for the purpose of **providing vaccine services**, in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2018.

*Article 14 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands*

**ARTICLE 15:** A motion was made and seconded to vote to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Public Schools** for the 2017 fiscal year.

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| School Committee Stipend                  | \$ 4,564.00            |
| <b>Rowe School Budget</b>                 |                        |
| Rowe School Pre-K-6 Operating Budget      | \$ 1,100,131.00        |
| Rowe School Secondary 7-12                | \$ 539,934.00          |
| <b>TOTAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM TAXATION</b> | <b>\$ 1,644,629.00</b> |

*Article 15 – Passed By Show Of Hands*

*School Committee Chair, Susan Zavotka thanked Lisa Miller for her time served on the Rowe School Committee. Ms. Miller received a round of applause from the audience.*

**ARTICLE 16:** A motion was made and seconded to authorize the School Committee, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to use a **revolving fund with a limit of \$10,000.00** for the 2017 fiscal year to accept fees for **School Programs** for the purpose of offsetting department costs, in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2018.

*Article 16 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands*

**ARTICLE 17:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the **Rowe Town Library** for the 2017 fiscal year.

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Library Salaries and Wages                   | \$ 38,290.00        |
| Library Operations                           | \$ 29,562.00        |
| <b>TOTAL ROWE TOWN LIBRARY FROM TAXATION</b> | <b>\$ 67,852.00</b> |

*Article 17 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands*

**ARTICLE 18:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the **management and operation of Pelham Lake Park** for the 2017 fiscal year.

|                                 |                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Park Wages                      | \$ 88,554.00         |
| Operation and Maintenance       | \$ 19,830.00         |
| <b>TOTAL PARK FROM TAXATION</b> | <b>\$ 108,384.00</b> |

*Article 18 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands*

**ARTICLE 19:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums fiscal year 2017 for **Culture and Recreation** items.

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Gracy House Operations                                    | \$ 4,000.00        |
| Gracy House Materials                                     | \$ 500.00          |
| Beautification Committee                                  | \$ 2,000.00        |
| <b>TOTAL GRACY HOUSE and BEAUTIFICATION FROM TAXATION</b> | <b>\$ 6,500.00</b> |

*Article 19 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands*

**ARTICLE 20:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums fiscal year 2017 for **Old Home Day**.

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Old Home Day                            | \$ 5,500.00         |
| Old Home Day Fireworks                  | \$ 5,000.00         |
| <b>TOTAL OLD HOME DAY FROM TAXATION</b> | <b>\$ 10,500.00</b> |

*Article 20 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands*

**ARTICLE 21:** A motion was made and seconded to authorize the **Old Home Day Committee**, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to use a **revolving fund with a limit of \$5,000.00** for the 2017 fiscal year to accept departmental receipts generated by Old

Home Day activities and programs for the purpose of **defraying expenses of Old Home Day**, in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2018.

*Article 21 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands*

**ARTICLE 22:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Pensions and Insurance** for the 2017 fiscal year.

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Franklin County Retirement Assessment              | \$ 125,895.00        |
| Unemployment Insurance                             | 1,000.00             |
| Group Health Insurance                             | 465,000.00           |
| FICA/Medicare Tax – Town Share                     | 50,000.00            |
| <b>TOTAL PENSION &amp; INSURANCE FROM TAXATION</b> | <b>\$ 641,895.00</b> |

*Article 22 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands*

**ARTICLE 23:** A motion was made and seconded to **APPROPRIATE** from **FREE CASH** the sum of **\$102,071.00** to be used to reduce the FY2017 Tax Rate.

*Article 23 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands*

**ARTICLE 24:** A motion was made and seconded to **APPROPRIATE** from the **Assessors Overlay Surplus Account** the sum of **\$42,410.00** reduce the FY2017 Tax Rate.

*Article 24 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands*

**ARTICLE 25:** A motion was made and seconded to **APPROPRIATE from** the **STABILIZATION FUND**, the following sums for **special projects**.

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>SCHOOL</b> – Technology  | \$ 7,600.00         |
| <b>MUNICIPAL AUDIT</b>  | 6,000.00            |
| <b>TOWN HALL</b> – Bulk Head Door & installing Insulation Door      | 1,500.00            |
| <b>EMS</b> – Updating Supplies                                      | 3,000.00            |
| <b>EMS</b> – Training x 3 @ \$2600. Each                            | 7,800.00            |
| <b>DPW/FIRE</b> – Door Seals  | 3,000.00            |
| <b>FIRE DEPT</b> – Handheld & Truck Radio Replacement               | 10,000.00           |
| <b>FIRE DEPT</b> – First Responder Immunizations                    | 2,300.00            |
| <b>ASSESSORS</b> – Assessors Full Measure & List (every nine years) | 9,000.00            |
| <b>TOTAL FROM STABILIZATION</b>                                     | <b>\$ 50,200.00</b> |

*Two – thirds vote required to pass the article*

*Article 25 – Passed By Show Of Hands  
One No Vote  
Declared Two-Thirds By Moderator*

**ARTICLE 26:** A motion was made and seconded to **APPROPRIATE from** the **CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND**, the following sums for **capital repairs and improvements**

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| <b>DPW</b> – Truck   | \$ 240,000.00        |
| <b>MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS</b> – Painting                          | \$ 30,000.00         |
| <b>FIRE DEPT</b> – Replace (2) SCBA Air Pack, Masks, Cylinders | \$ 18,000.00         |
| <b>LIBRARY</b> – Front Walkway Stairs & Stone Walls            | \$ 12,000.00         |
| <b>BOARD OF HEALTH</b> – Replace Trash Compactor               | \$ 15,000.00         |
| <b>TOTAL CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND</b>                        | <b>\$ 315,000.00</b> |

*Two – thirds vote required to pass the article*

*Article 26 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands  
Declared Two-Thirds By Moderator*

**ARTICLE 27:** A motion was made and seconded to **APPROPRIATE from** the **Assessors Overlay Surplus Account** the sum of **\$55,810.43** to be put into the **Road Reclamation Stabilization Account**.

*Two – thirds vote required to pass the article*

*Article 27 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands*

***Declared Two-Thirds By Moderator***

**ARTICLE 28:** A motion was made and seconded to **Appropriate** from the **Future Ambulance Services Account** the sum of \$15,000.00 to purchase a Lucas Device.

***Article 28 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands***

**ARTICLE 29:** A motion was made and seconded to accept and approve the following resolution regarding the critical need for immediate action on wired broadband service, as written below,

*Whereas* the State’s westward expansion of broadband service to our rural towns of is a matter of Equal rights and fair representation as guaranteed by the Massachusetts Bill of Rights; and

*Whereas* broadband service is THE lifeline to our economic survival; and

*Whereas* our students’ education is compromised in under-enrolled schools and thwarted by their inability to perform required online assignments; and

*Whereas* our residents are unable to utilize digital internet health care; and

*Whereas* broadband assures the interconnectivity essential to life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; and

*Whereas* The Massachusetts legislature passed and the governor signed Bill H4355, an Act financing information technology equipment and related projects, on June 6, 2014, which authorized \$50 Million to the Massachusetts Broadband Incentive Fund,

THEREFORE be it resolved that we, the Town of Rowe, call upon the Baker/Polito Administration to commit all necessary resources to ensure the provision of wired broadband service to Rowe in its entirety thus meeting the internet needs of all its residents; and

Expediently provide resolution to this most challenging situation by allocating the funds necessary to bring this project to conclusion; and

Instruct the Massachusetts Broadband Institute to work cooperatively with the towns and their agencies, including WiredWest, and to accept input and policy direction from the towns to jointly produce an actionable plan that is acceptable to our town by June 30th, 2016.

Be it further resolved that the Town Clerk be directed to send copies of this resolution to Governor Charlie Baker, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, and Secretary Jay Ash.

***Article 29 – Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands***

**ARTICLE 30:** To transact any other business that may lawfully come before the meeting

- Fire Chief Brandon Sprague reminded residents to take caution around down trees and wires.
- Marilyn Wilson thanked Susan Gleason for her time on the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Gleason received a round of applause from the audience.
- Susan Zavotka- School Committee chair responded to a question regarding the possible Mohawk grades 7-12 agreement. Ms. Zavotka stated that the school committee has not voted to endorse or not endorse this issue. They only voted to present the issue to the Town of Rowe. At this time they are waiting to see how the other towns respond.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting at 7:53 p.m. Passed Unanimously.

***Respectfully Submitted:***

***Jennifer A. Morse  
Rowe Town Clerk  
May 13, 2016***

A true copy, attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer A. Morse Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date